



Appalachian Teachers' Association

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Congratulations to our Retirees!



Danny Lapointe, Rosemary Scott, Elaine Vachon, Megan Seline, Michelle Descormiers, George Godue and Ron Phendler at the ATA's AGM.

This year's retirees...

Louise Allen – AGRHS
Claire Bertrand – Sunnyside
Michelle Descormiers –
 BM Voc Training
George Godue –
 BM Voc Training
Mary Ann Haney – Butler
Daniel Lapointe – Heroes'
Elaine Vachon – Sunnyside
Terry Marlin – AGRHS
Lynn Mckelvey – Knowlton
Ron Phendler – Sunnyside
Louise Potter – ACES
Lesley Hyndman – PEES
Peter Raymond – MVHS
Colette Roy – Sunnyside

Teaching.... a complex, challenging, profession, all too often belittled and unsupported by society. Every teacher intimately knows the frustrations; evenings and weekends consumed by marking, constantly being expected to do more with less, searching for a few minutes here and there to get the photocopying done, multi-tasking while having lunch...

But then there's that other side; witnessing the moment the "aha, I got it" bulb lights up, or the satisfaction of seeing your students mature, gain new insights and take on new roles and responsibilities.

For this year's retirees, though, the job is just about done. Next August as the rest of us prepare for the return to school, they'll awake from their teacher-dreams, remember... and roll over for just a little more sleep. Well done, teachers! Have a long and enjoyable well-deserved retirement!



Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

- Henry James

ATA Executive Committee 2015-2016

- President - Megan Seline
- Treasurer - Marty Roberts
- Secretary - April Blampied
- High School Vice-President (MVHS) - vacant
- High School Vice-President (RRHS) - Marina Delis
- High School Vice-President (AGRHS) - Mathieu Michaud
- Elementary School Vice-President (AGRHS cluster) - vacant
- Elementary School Vice-President (RRHS cluster) - Marie-Michele Fradet
- Elementary School Vice-President (MVHS cluster) - Liane Flynn
- Adult Education Vice-President - Megan Maclean
- Vocational Training Vice-President - Ghislain Gravel
- Member at Large (MVHS & cluster) - Barbra Plouffe
- Member at Large (RRHS & cluster) - Lynzee Portfors
- Member at Large (AGRHS & cluster) - Adriana Lyons

Thank you for your service to your colleagues!

Negotiations Update

We are now in the 2nd phase of negotiations, and it's no secret that it's not going well. Meetings will continue through the month of June and then resume in August. At this point there is a new set of collective actions that is being planned and there will be more information about this either before the end of June or in mid-August.

During this current year there have been a number of actions that unions and schools may or may not have chosen to participate in; it was a matter of choice and fit. However, the fall actions will be collective actions, and while some schools may be unable to participate in certain actions, it is expected that everyone will participate in the major pressure tactics.

In the meantime, we would like to remind you that there is a possibility there may be some strike days at some point in the fall. Quebec unions do not have "strike pay" and the old proverb of "Saving for a Rainy Day" is a very apt one in this situation. Our advice? Put a few dollars away every paycheck so that you will have a little nest egg to fall back on should the need arise. If we're lucky and there are no strike days, you'll have a nice little bonus to spend!

President's Prose



Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

Cheers,
megan

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Have you got a burning question you'd like to ask the School Board?

June 23 is the last Council of Commissioners meeting this year. If you've got a question on your mind, don't carry it with you all summer long; get rid of it at the C of C - 7:00 pm. Megan will be glad to see you!

Committee Highlights

ATA TAC

- ✚ **Early Intervention** - A report is currently being put together and will be presented at the June TAC meeting. The committee is made up of 1 principal, 2 teachers, 1 professional and 2 consultants.

QPAT

Mobilization - The year may be starting to wind down, but actions are still going on all over the province. Reminder: you can follow what's happening at the following Facebook pages:

QPAT - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/QPATAPEQ/243536577025>

Chateauguy Valley Teachers' Association -

<https://www.facebook.com/ChateauguyValleyTeachersAssociation>

Eastern Shores Teachers' Association -

<https://www.facebook.com/esteachers>

Montreal Teachers' Association -

<https://www.facebook.com/MTAAEEM>

Pearson Teachers' Union - <https://www.facebook.com/PTUSEP>

Riverside Teachers Union -

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Riverside-teachers-Union/1068113393214811>

Trending Topics - International Students, Concentration Programs, IEP's in Adult/Voc. Ed, PLC's, Merger, Negotiations, Evaluation in Multi-age groupings

The Power of Social Media

As you no doubt already know, the ATA joined the world of modern communication last January when we created our Facebook page. We got off to a bit of a slow start, but have gradually been picking up speed over the past couple of months, what with the Union actions and press coverage. The past week, though, was a WHOPPER! Here are the stats: Total post reach - 4,242 / Total post clicks - 2,396 / Total post likes - 167 / Comments - 14 / and Shares - 38.

What's this tell us? First that we should have started a Facebook page long ago! Really, though, it says tells us that we can use Facebook to disseminate information, and right now, particularly information about negotiation activities. If you haven't visited our page, please do, and then like us and invite your friends to our page, too - and especially your non-teaching friends. Our biggest challenge is to get our message out. Here's the URL: <https://www.facebook.com/ataunion>

Links of Interest

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|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| • QPAT | www.qpat-apeq.qc.ca | 1-800-361-9870 |
| • Parental Insurance Plan | www.rqap.gouv.qc.ca | 1-888-610-7727 |
| • Quebec Pension Plan | www.rrq.gouv.qc.ca | 1-800-463-5185 |
| • CARRA | www.carra.gouv.qc.ca | 1-800-463-5533 |
| • MELS | www.meq.gouv.qc.ca | 1-866-747-6626 |
| • Industrial Alliance | www.inalco.com | 1-800-363-3540 |
| • Strathcona Credit Union | | 1-888-350-5111 |



Photo credit: easterntownships.org

The three R's:
Rest, relax, rejuvenate...
Have a wonderful summer break!